

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

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TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: CHARUNPHAN ON THAI/U.S. RELATIONS

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA HELD
A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 23, 1974. FOLLOWING IS AN
UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON THAI/U.S.
RELATIONS:

REPORTER WILL YOU MEET KISSINGER WHILE YOU ARE IN AMERICA
THIS TIME?

CHARUNPHAN I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT WASHINGTON WILL ARRANGE
FOR ME TO MEET HIM. WE WILL MOST PROBABLY EXCHANGE VIEWS ON
WORLD AFFAIRS AND ON WAYS TO REACH GOOD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

REPORTER ON WHAT SUBJECT?

CHARUNPHAN ON PROBLEMS AND ISSUES IN GENERAL

REPORTER WILL TALKS INCLUDE THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES
ALSO?

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CHARUNPHAN THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES IS

BEING CARRIED OUT ALREADY. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON EXTENT OF WITHDRAWALS TO BE CARRIED OUT AND COMPLETED UP TO THE END OF THE PRESENT YEAR. AFTER THAT TIME IS REACHED TALKS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD AGAIN ON FURTHER WITHDRAWALS.

REPORT WHEN YOU MEET KISSINGER, WON'T YOU DISCUSS WAYS TO CARRY OUT WITHDRAWALS MORE SPEEDILY THAN AT PRESENT?

CHARUNPHAN THAT DEPENDS ON THE GOVERNMENT. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HAS TO LISTEN TO FACTS FROM PERSONS WHO ARE ON THE SPOT HERE.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT WE SHOULD FIND A WAY TO HELP CREATE GOOD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THIS REGION. I WAS ATTRACTED BY AND LIKE AN EXPRESSION READ IN A NEWSPAPER WHICH SAID THAT PEACE AND HAPPINESS WILL BE OBTAINED THROUGH GOOD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. BUT IF MUTUAL CONCESSIONS ARE NOT MADE THERE CAN BE NO UNDERSTANDING. I SPOKE ON THE SUBJECT OF UNDERSTANDING AT THONBURI ROTARY. MY VIEW IS THAT WORLD TENSION COULD BE EASED SHOULD THERE BE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST.

REPORTER WILL YOU SPEAK ABOUT AID?

CHARUNPHAN I FEEL THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FACED WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ALSO. YOU HAVE MOST PROBABLY READ PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT MADE RECENTLY IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED HIS TASK TO REMEDY INFLATION IN HIS COUNTRY. THEREFORE, IN VIEW OF THE PRINCIPLE OF THRIFT HE IS ADHERING TO AND THAT HE STRESSED, I AM OF THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER TIMING AT ALL TO BRING UP THE SUBJECT OF AID IN ANY WAY.

REPORTER ----

CHARUNPHAN I FEEL THAT WHAT WE IN ASIA NEED IS MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN AID, AS WELL AS UNDERSTANDING LEADING TO KNOWLEDGE THAT WHEN ANYTHING OCCURS, WHEN ANY SUSPICIONS ARE FELT, THAT TALKS SHOULD BE HELD AND VIEWS EXCHANGED. BUT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH IS VERY DEEP AND COMPLICATED AND I HAVE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS YET. WHEN I

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RETURN, I SHOULD HAVE SOME INFORMATION TO GIVE YOU.

REPORTER WILL ANY REPERCUSSIONS BE CAUSED BY ANYTHING?

CHARUNPHAN YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THAT IN OUR COUNTRY SOME PERSONS ARE EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT AMERICANS SHOULD NOT REMAIN, THAT THEY SHOULD PULL OUT, WHILE SOME OTHER PERSONS SAY THAT THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IS STILL NECESSARY TO

SOME EXTENT BECAUSE DANGER STILL MENACES THIS REGION. FURTHERMORE, NOBODY CAN DENY AND IS DENYING THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ACTED IN WAYS BENEFITTING THAILAND, DATING BACK YEARS AGO. FOR INSTANCE, IT IS KNOWN THAT AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR II THE UNITED STATES PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN HELPING THAILAND. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS A COUNTRY WHICH IS A FRIEND, AND THE MAIN PRINCIPLE IN THE POLICY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS THAT WE WILL BE FRIENDS WITH PERSONS WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS. THEREFORE, HOW CAN WE ERASE ITS NAME FROM THE LIST OF OUR FRIENDS?

REPORTER

CHARUNPHAN IN OTHER WORDS WHICH ARE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND, WE CANNOT COLD SHOULDER A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN A FRIEND TO US SUDDENLY. THAT WOULD NOT BE AT ALL PROPER AND SUITABLE MANNER. FOR INSTANCE, SHOULD THERE BE ANY ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH A MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE CONSIDER SHOWS LACK OF ANY THOUGHT BEING PAID TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS, THEN IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR US TO HOLD TALKS WITH IT AND TO REACH UNDERSTANDING. THIS MEANS THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR US TO REMAIN SILENT AND NOT SPEAK OUT IN ORDER FOR EVERY ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO BE SOLELY IN ITS INTERESTS. WE MUST BEAR IN MIND THE INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRY ALSO, AND SHOULD ANYTHING CONFLICT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THAILAND WE MUST SPEAK OUT AND HOLD TALKS WITH IT FRANKLY. BUT TALKS HELD MUST BE TALKS BETWEEN FRIENDS, NOT AS IF THEY WERE HELD BETWEEN ENEMIES.
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